

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-15.
- After this Amendment: Claims 1-15.

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: None

Amended claims: 1, 5-8, 11, and 12.

New claims: None

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for hashing an image, comprising:

receiving an image; and

deriving a single hash value representative of the image, as a whole, such that images that are visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately independent of one another and images that are different but visually similar result in identical hash values, whereby a comparison between a hash value representative of a first image and a hash value representative of a second image indicates whether the first and second images are visually distinct or visually similar.

2. **(Original)** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising storing the hash value in association with the image.

3. **(Original)** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising indexing the image using the hash value.

4. **(Original)** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising comparing the hash value with another hash value derived from another image.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving an image;

deriving a hash value representative of the image, as a whole, such that images that are visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately independent of one another and images that are different but visually similar result in identical hash values; and

watermarking the digital image using, in part, the hash value to produce a watermarked image, whereby the watermarked image is resistant to break once run everywhere (BORE) attacks.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented hashing method, comprising:

computing a single hash value representative of a digital image, as a whole, such that images that are visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately independent of one another and images that are different but visually similar result in identical hash values; and

storing the hash value in relationship with the digital image, whereby a plurality of digital images are indexed using hash values, each representative of one of the plurality of digital images.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented hashing method, comprising:

computing a hash value representative of a digital image; and

watermarking the digital image with a watermark derived, in part, using the hash value, whereby a comparison between the digital image with the watermark and a second image indicates whether the second image is a legitimate copy of the digital image.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for processing digital images, comprising:

an image hashing unit to compute a single hash value representative of a digital image, as a whole, such that images that are visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately independent of one another and images that are different but visually similar result in identical hash values; and

a storage to hold the hash value.

9. (Original) A system for processing digital images as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

a watermark encoder to watermark the digital image using, in part, the hash value to produce a watermarked image.

10. (Original) A system for processing digital images as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

an image comparison module to compare the hash value representative of the image with a second hash value representative of a second image to determine whether the images are visually distinct or visually similar.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for processing digital images, comprising:

an image hashing unit to compute a hash value representative of a digital image, as a whole, such that images that are visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately independent of one another and images that are different but visually similar result in identical hash values; and

a watermark encoder to watermark the digital image using, in part, the hash value to produce a watermarked image.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, which when executed on a processor, direct a computer to:

compute a single hash value representative of a digital image, as a whole, such that images that are visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately independent of one another and images that are different but visually similar result in identical hash values; and

store the hash value in relationship with the digital image, whereby a comparison between a hash value representative of the digital image and a hash value representative of a second image indicates whether the digital image and the second image are visually distinct or visually similar.

13. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 12, further comprising computer-executable instructions, which when executed on a processor, direct a computer to:

index the digital image using the hash value.

14. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 12, further comprising computer-executable instructions, which when executed on a processor, direct a computer to:

watermark the digital image using, in part, the hash value to produce a watermarked image.

15. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 12, further comprising computer-executable instructions, which when executed on a processor, direct a computer to:

compare the hash value with another hash value representative of another image.